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Agent's Docket N. 34669/GM/rf/ts

USSN 09/880,147 4-502

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Samuele VINATI *et al.*)
Ser. No.: 09/880,147) Group Art Unit: 2131
Filed: June 14, 2001) Examiner: still unknown
For: METHOD FOR CONTROLLING...)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231 USA

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97 Technology Center 2100

Sir:

Applicant herewith encloses copies of the prior art references which have been cited in the European Search Report issued for the counterpart European Patent Application which contains subject matter equivalent to that of the present application. The references submitted herewith for consideration are listed on the attached form PTO-1449.

A copy of the European Search Report (in English) is herewith provided which indicates the degree of relevancy found by the European Patent Office of each reference, so as to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3), according to the Commissioner's Comment 68, 1135 Off. gaz. Pat. Office 13,20 (Feb. 4, 1992), and as set forth in MPEP 609 part A(3).

A copy of the Annex to the European Search Report is also enclosed, which indicates the patent family members of the patent documents cited in the Search Report.

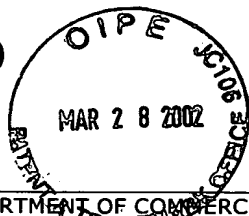
In order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.97(c) in the event that a first Office Action has been mailed before the present information disclosure statement (IDS) is filed, the undersigned herewith states in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in the present IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present IDS.

Respectfully submitted,

Guido MODIANO (Reg. No. 19,928)
Agent for the Applicant

Date: March 15, 2002
Address: Via Meravigli 16, 20123 MILAN-ITALY
Telephone: (from USA) (011)(39)(02)8590-7777

encl.: -Form PTO-1449.
-Copy of European Search Report.
-Cited references.



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Sheet 1 of 1

FORM PTO-1449
(REV.7-80)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET No.
34669/GM/rf/tsAPPLICATION No.
09/880,147**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**
(use several sheets if necessary)APPLICANT
Samuele VINATI *et al.*FILING DATE
June 14, 2001GROUP ART UNIT
2131**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	AL	01 98934	12-2001	PCT				
	AM	00 29969	05-2000	PCT				
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							

OTHER PRIOR ART (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AR		
	AS		
	AT		

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not criteria is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant(s).